

FREE RICHMOND DAY FREE

Virginia State Fair

Wednesday, Oct. 8th.

To Be Given Away

500

FIVE HUNDRED PAIRS

Children's Fancy Shoes

500

To Be Distributed at Our Booth at the Fair as Follows:

100 Pairs Between 9 A. M. and 10 A. M.

100 Pairs Between 10 A. M. and 11 A. M.

100 Pairs Between 11 A. M. and 12 M.

100 Pairs Between 2 P. M. and 3 P. M.

100 Pairs Between 3 P. M. and 4 P. M.

Stephen Putney Shoe Co.

Richmond, Virginia

"Battle Axe" Shoes

"Best By Every Test"

DENOUNCED BY PRESS AS ACT OF DESPOTISM

Seizure of Quantity of Confidential Papers by Belgian Police.

BY LA MARQUISE DE FONTENAY.

WHEN some ten or twelve years ago the Belgian police, at the instance of the late King Leopold, made a descent upon the Chateau of Argenteau, on the River Meuse, near the French frontier, and seized a quantity of confidential papers, on the eve of the sale of the contents of this historic and picturesque country seat, by public auction, for the benefit of the creditors of its owner, the divorced wife of the French Duke of Avaray, it was denounced by the Belgian and French press as an act of high-handed despotism, and an attempt was made, especially by the editors, to compel the police to restore what they had taken, but without avail.

The papers seized constituted the confidential correspondence of the woman's grandfather, that Count de Mercy d'Argenteau, who, as Belgian minister plenipotentiary in Paris at the time of the marriage of King Leopold I. to the daughter of King Louis Philippe of France, carried on all the negotiations in connection with that matrimonial alliance, and who afterwards was employed by Leopold in arranging matters with two titled women, resident in Paris, who had enjoyed the protection of the pious old Belgian King, and had borne him large families of natural sons and daughters.

The publication of all this secret correspondence, relating not only to the marriage, but also to the indiscretions of Leopold I., who was the guardian and uncle of Queen Victoria of England, and revered by her as the most upright and blameless of monarchs, would have been embarrassing, to say the least, to the courts of Brussels and of St. James.

How well advised the Belgian authorities were in making this seizure has received a striking and altogether remarkable illustration by the discovery last week in the office of an auto-

graph collector and vendor on Fifth Avenue, in New York, of seven large crates filled with the confidential correspondence of the Counts of Mercy and of Mercy d'Argenteau, with various sovereigns and statesmen of Europe, extending over a period of 200 years.

There are voluminous letters of Emperors, kings, queens, and some more, signed by her, addressed to her ambassador in Paris, Count Florimont de Mercy d'Argenteau, the counselor and mentor of the Dauphine, afterwards, Queen Marie Antoinette, in which the Empress urged the count to recommend a greater amount of discretion and caution to this ill-fated daughter of hers, who was subsequently to lose her head by the guillotine, on what is now the Place de la Concorde, at the lower end of the Champs Elysees in Paris. It was, in fact, this Count de Mercy d'Argenteau who negotiated the marriage of Archduchess Marie Antoinette with Louis XVI.

Then there are all the letters of Count Francis de Mercy, the famous Austrian general and statesman, who defeated Turenne and his French armies, in 1645, and of his grandson, who played so notable a role in the following century, during the Seven Years' War. There are letters of the great Duke of Marlborough, of Emperor Charles VI., voluminous letters of Queen Marie Antoinette, of Pope Gregory XVI., of Louis XV., Louis XVI. and Louis XVIII. of France.

This may convey some faint idea of the extraordinary historic value of these seven crates of documents, which were sold a year and a half ago to a Third Fourth Street second-hand book shop for a mere song, by a woman styling herself the "Princess de Montgylion."

This woman, whose title of Princess de Montgylion is not recognized to-day in Europe, having long since become the wife of Hubert, Duke of Avaray, their marriage having been dissolved before his succession to the dukedom, and while he was still Marquis d'Avaray. There is a son of this marriage of hers, now known as the Marquis Antoine

d'Avaray, twenty-eight years of age, who was brought up by his grandmother, the late Duchess of Avaray, and by his father, and who in his childhood was the object of a sensational attempt on the part of his mother to kidnap him and to carry him off into Belgium, after the French courts had deprived her of the boy's custody.

She is by birth Countess Rosalie de Mercy d'Argenteau. Her father was connected in his younger days with the Belgian legation in Paris, and her mother, one of the beauties of the court of the Tuilleries, and at the same time persona grata at Berlin, played an extraordinary role during the Franco-German War in 1870-1871. Napoleon III., while in captivity at Wilhelmshofe, imagined that he might be able to help the imperialist cause in France by securing from Germany more favorable terms of peace than those offered by Bismarck to the republic. So he invited Countess Eugenie de Mercy d'Argenteau to visit him at Wilhelmshofe, from whence she set out early in February, 1871, disguised, with written instructions stitched into her petticoat, and provided with a military pass, under the name of "Mme. Haendel," for Versailles. There she was received with great kindness by old Emperor William, who had been one of her warmest admirers, and also by Bismarck. Neither of them, however, found it possible to yield to her representations and to her entreaties in behalf of France, and incidentally of Napoleon III. Bismarck, despite his detestations of petticoat diplomats and politicians, was so much impressed by her charm that he wrote her the following note:

"Versailles, February 26, 1871.

"Mme. La Comtesse: "In returning to you herewith inclosed with many thanks the letter and the memoranda of which you have been so good as to permit me to take cognizance, I beg of you to accept the expression of my profound respect and of my sincere regards for the negotiations with so charming a plenipotentiary should not be more long and more frequent.

(Signed) "BISMARCK."

To-day the daughter of this fascinating emissary of Napoleon III. to the late Emperor William and Prince Bismarck at Versailles iseking out a scanty subsistence in Florida, after a somewhat eventful decade passed in and around New York. During those ten years she came frequently before the public, by reason of her extraordinary marriage, to John Ferdinand Guntner, better known by the name of Jack Bonavita, the Bon-tamer of Coney Island, New York, by her quarrels with the various kennel clubs around New York and Boston, concerning the prize dogs which she made a business of breeding. There were also libel suits which she brought against rival exhibitors in these shows, who had charged her with making false entries, and with dyeing the coats of her dogs. There were troubles with her creditors, and proceedings in connection with promissory notes, which she insisted were forgeries, as far as her signature was concerned. In short, there was no end to her tribulations, mainly due, it would appear, to her lack of business sense and responsibility, her lamentable ignorance of American conditions, and the absence of any level-headed adviser, who would have shown her how to avoid the thousand and one pitfalls that lay in her path on this side of the Atlantic.

She had for a time large kennels near Englewood, N. J., and also in Chester County, N. Y. But financially

they were a failure, and as for her lion-tamer husband, she was reported in the newspapers about two years ago to be engaged in divorce proceedings with him. Whether their marriage has been dissolved or not, I do not know.

Her first marriage was shipwrecked by her extravagances of both behavior and expenditure, which drove her husband, Hubert d'Avaray, in spite of his strict Roman Catholicism, to secure first a judicial separation from her and eventually, with the utmost reluctance, a complete divorce. I remember at the time of the separation suit, in Paris, the amazing evidence concerning her altogether fantastic extravagance, in the matter of dress,

especially "les dessous," the Parisian papers devoting pages to description and comment. By many she was regarded then as mentally unbalanced, where money and dress were concerned.

Her family is one of the oldest of the Flemish nobility, its records dating back to the twelfth century, since which time its Chateau of Argenteau, on the River Meuse, near the French frontier, continued in possession of the house until its sale some twelve or fifteen years ago for the benefit of the creditors of the family of this historic member of the family of this historic house, Rosalie de Mercy d'Argenteau.

ex-Marquise d'Avaray, and sold-disant Princess de Montgylion. (Copyright, 1913, by the Brentwood Company.)

BON AIR

Bon Air, Va., October 4.—Miss Lilla Robertson, of Norfolk, was the guest recently of Miss Lillian Cook, at her home here. Mrs. Kato Berkeley left on Wednesday to spend the winter in Amelia. Mrs. F. L. Withers and Miss Frances Withers have been visiting Mrs. David Almale in Richmond. Miss Ruth and Grace Hazen are spending several weeks with friends in Prattville, Ala. Coleman Wortham and family have closed their summer home near Bon Air, and gone to Richmond for the winter. Frank Pinkerton, of Norfolk, and Wilson Jones, of Petersburg, were the weekend guests at the home of Dr. E. B. McIntosh. Miss Mamie Powers is spending several days with friends in Richmond. Mrs. A. L. Adamson, of Richmond, and Mrs. Sain Corbin, of Forest Hill, were the guests recently of friends here. Mr. and Mrs. Lucius Cary and family left Bon Air last week for their home on Hanover Avenue, Richmond. Mrs. Allen Goolsby is spending a short time with friends in Richmond. Mrs. Robert Bridgeforth has returned from Amelia Courthouse, where she has been visiting relatives. Mrs. Spencer, of Richmond, was the guest of Mrs. A. R. Holderby during the past week. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson, Dr. and Mrs. Judd Wood, Mrs. Dyson and Mr. Davis, who have been spending the summer at the inn, have returned to their homes in the city. Mr. and Mrs. La Grange Cook were the weekend guests of Mrs. Harris Vassar.

EAT NEW BREAD, CABBAGE, SAUSAGE AND DIGEST IT. "PAPE'S DIAPEPSIN"

No indigestion, no sour, gassy stomach or dyspepsia. Try it!

Do some foods you eat hit back—taste good, but work badly; ferment into stubborn lumps and cause a sick, sour, gassy stomach? Now, Mr. or Mrs. Dyspeptic, get this down: Pape's Diapepsin digests everything, leaving nothing to sour and upset you. No difference how badly your stomach is disordered, you get happy relief in five minutes, but what pleases you most is that it strengthens and regulates

your stomach so you can eat your favorite foods without fear. Most remedies give you relief sometimes—they are slow, but not sure. Diapepsin is quick, positive and puts your stomach in a healthy condition so the misery won't come back.

You feel different as soon as Pape's Diapepsin comes in contact with the stomach—distress just vanishes—your stomach gets sweet, no gases, no belching, no eructations of undigested food, your head clears and you feel fine.

Put an end to stomach trouble by getting a large fifty-cent case of Pape's Diapepsin from any drug store. You realize in five minutes how needless it is to suffer from indigestion, dyspepsia or any stomach disorder.—Advertisement.

Carpets

Choice of \$1.25 to \$1.40 Velvet Room Carpets,

89c

Choice of Tapestry Room Carpets up to \$1.10,

59c

Choice of 9x12-ft. Room Size Fibre Druggets up to \$12,

\$8.98

Next to the Woman

A HOME consists of comfortable and tasty, tidy furnishings. An experience of 33 years and the enormous stock in our big six-story building will fill ANY want. Our Furniture and Rugs are NOT the freak kind that go out of style in a hurry, and they are NOT high priced.

During Fair Week we will prepay freight to any point in Virginia on purchases of \$10.00 and over. Also ask about our banking plan, which allows the purchaser to pay for any purchase in five, ten or fifteen months in easy monthly payments.

Stoves

Don't fail to see the Richmond Self-Feeder, the Jurgens Novelty and the Tip Top Hot Blast.

They are low in price, and will give absolute satisfaction.

Wood Stoves,
\$1.25 up

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Fair visitors are cordially invited to make our store their headquarters while in the city.

McDougall Kitchen Cabinets and Detroit Jewel Gas Stoves are reasonable in price, and make sweet-tempered housewives.